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A NEW CUCKOO FROM NEW ZEALAND.

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While comparing specimens of *Urodynamis taitensis* (Sparrman) it was found that those from New Zealand differ markedly from birds from Polynesia. As there is no name available for this New Zealand race, hitherto unrecognized, it may be known as

Urodynamis taitensis pheletes subsp. nov.

Characters.—Similar to *Urodynamis taitensis taitensis* but more heavily streaked below (especially on the breast and sides of the neck) and with the under parts more buffy.

Description.—Type, female adult, Catalogue No. 124653, Collection U. S. National Museum, from Otago Province, New Zealand, collector, W. Smythe. Above fuscous black with crossbars on back and wings varying from vinaceous-cinnamon to cinnamon; head and neck streaked with light pinkish cinnamon; tail barred heavily with cinnamon (the dark and light bars equal in width), tipped with white; wing coverts tipped irregularly with white or buff; secondaries and inner primaries tipped with white; superciliary stripe pinkish buff anteriorly, paler behind the eye; under parts white tinged with cream color; breast and sides streaked boldly with long streaks of fuscous black; flanks and thighs buffy with broad bars of fuscous black; sides of the neck with broad cinnamon borders on the dark longitudinal streaks, these cinnamon edgings faintly indicated on the upper breast; throat with faintly indicated cinnamon streaks.

Measurements (of type).—Wing, 190 mm.; tail, 234; exposed culmen, 26; tarsus, 35.5; middle toe with claw, 30.

Range.—New Zealand. (Specimens examined from Auckland, Remuera and the Province of Otago.)

Remarks.—The adult of this form is readily distinguished from *Urodynamis t. taitensis* (from Funafuti, Ellice Islands) by its more buffy and more heavily streaked under parts. Immature birds are much darker and more buffy below than young birds from Fiji and the Samoan Islands. In addition they have the ground color of the back darker.

Sparrman in his original description* does not give the type locality of his *Cuculus taitensis*, but this has been fixed by Rothschild and Hartert† as Tahiti. *Cuculus tahitius* Gmelin‡ is assigned by the describer to the Society Islands. Mathews,§ moreover, has designated Tahiti as the type locality. Vieillot|| does not state where the material upon which he founded his *Cuculus perlatus* was secured, but this again is fixed by Mathews (l. c.) as Tahiti. *Cuculus fasciatus* of Forster¶ comes from Huaheine and Otaheite. It also is assigned definitely to Tahiti by Mathews (l. c.). The type of *Eudynamys cuneicauda* Peale (which is preserved in the U. S. National Museum) comes from Ovalau in the Fiji Islands. It is an immature individual of *U. t. taitensis*. No other names seem to have been applied to these cuckoos.

In separating the form from New Zealand an adult cuckoo from Funafuti Atoll in the Ellice group, an immature bird from the Samoan Islands and Peale's type from Ovalau in the Fiji group have been taken as representing *U. t. taitensis*. It seems probable that with more material other races will be apparent from Polynesia where these cuckoos have a wide range and where they are stated to be resident in many localities.

* Mus. Carlson., II, 1787, No. XXXII.

† Nov. Zool., XII, 1905, p. 258.

‡ Syst. Nat., I, Pt. I, 1788, p. 412.

§ List of Birds of Australia, London, 1913, p. 321.

|| Nouv. Dict. d' Hist. Nat., VIII, 1817, p. 232.

¶ Deser. An., 1844, p. 160.